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Can you build a better lie detector?

By Susan Miller   Jul 06, 2018

Assessing a person's credibility is not just important for law enforcement conducting criminal investigations, but also for agencies that require security clearances and organizations that screen new employees before hiring.

The polygraph lie detection system has been used practically unchanged for the last 50 years, and many have questioned its reliability. Other systems have been proposed, including voice-stress analysis and technology that measures changes in eye movements, but none has made inroads into national security or law enforcement applications.

To get a better understanding of current and future techniques and technologies to assess credibility, the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity plans to run a Credibility Assessment Standardized Evaluation (CASE) challenge.

The goal of the challenge is to develop new ways evaluate the accuracy, reliability and utility of tools in real-world situations where veracity, trustworthiness, motivation and considerations about what may be withheld or concealed figures into credibility assessments.

With its CASE challenge, IARPA wants to encourage a broad range of new ideas that have real-world applications. Several prizes will be awarded from a total prize purse of $100,000 for ideas that are novel, innovative, safe, have the potential to be useful, and are scientifically credible.

MORE INFO

High-tech lie detection

The Bureau of Fiscal Service shares what it learned when it used a distributed ledger to track emplFrom mouse-movement trackers to language-analysis algorithms, lie-detection technology is taking advantage of all the Information Age has to offer.

An online participants' day will be held July 31, 2018.

About the Author

Susan Miller is executive editor at GCN.

Over a career spent in tech media, Miller has worked in editorial, print production and online, starting on the copy desk at IDG's ComputerWorld, moving to print production for Federal Computer Week and later helping launch websites and email newsletter delivery for FCW. After a turn at Virginia's Center for Innovative Technology, where she worked to promote technology-based economic development, she rejoined what was to become 1105 Media in 2004, eventually managing content and production for all the company's government-focused websites. Miller shifted back to editorial in 2012, when she began working with GCN.

Miller has a BA from West Chester University and an MA in English from the University of Delaware.

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